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Editorial Notes and Comment



FOREIGN MISSIONS have been carried on by our committee during the past year without serious interruption. The contributions from all sources for this work were \$586,544.38. Last year the amount was \$527,665.12. This shows an increase of \$58,879.26 for the year. Owing to great increase in the cost of the work, due very largely to present conditions in the business world, there was a deficit for the year of \$21,261.71. This added to the deficit of \$52,164.21 with which the year was begun made the indebtedness of the committee on April 1st \$73,425.92. The question now is, What is the Church going to do about it? The papers tell us that the government is about to raise a fund of seven billion dollars for the defense of our country against its enemies. We have heard of no one complaining that the amount was too large. This means \$70 for every man, woman and child in this country. The protection of the rights of the country is worth it. Would it be asking too much of the members of the Presbyterian Church to give one-tenth as much for the defense of the kingdom of Christ as they will have to give additional to what they are already paying in taxes. If the war is continued for any length of time, there is no telling what the cost will be. This country can and will meet the cost, no matter what it will be. If the members of the Southern Presbyterian Church will at once give an average of \$7 for this cause, the Foreign Mission work will be taken care of very easily for any length of time that the war is likely to last. Why cannot the Church at once raise a fund that will put this great work in a state of "preparedness"? It can be done.

WAR is almost certain to produce a state of unrest in this country and to unsettle present conditions in every way. One of the best ways in which to aid the country is to do everything that is possible to minimize this condition just as far as possible. A good beginning in this respect will be to stop all extravagance in living. The fearful conditions in Europe ought to teach us to conserve our resources from the very beginning. Anything that is wasted now may be very much needed a little later on. A few years ago the price of coal rose very rapidly, until it was selling for double its usual price. A man of moderate means said, before the winter was over, that he was very thankful for the high price of coal, as it had made it necessary for him to be economical. The result was that he said his family had learned to make themselves comfortable with just one-half of their usual supply of coal. He said that the lesson would not be forgotten when conditions became normal again. It will be far better to begin the practice of economies, before we reach the point where we will have no choice in the matter.

EDITORS and publishers of Church papers are just as likely to be called by God to their work, as is any other class of workers in the Lord's kingdom. They are trying to do the work that the Lord has given them to do. But they cannot secure all the results of their work, without the help of the Church. The best edited and published paper that can be made, will be of no avail unless it has readers. The church that will secure the largest number of readers for the Church paper will derive the greatest benefit to itself in quickened life and inspiration.

FOOD SHORTAGE is predicted for this country as well as for the great warring nations of Europe. The government officials are urging all the people to economize and to prevent waste in the use of food supplies. The government itself can do more to stop this wastage than can be done in any other way. The great bulk of American people have never learned economy in the use of food supplies, but the greatest loss in this particular is not to be found in the homes of either rich or poor. Millions of bushels of grain are used every year for the manufacture of liquor. No one can claim that liquor will satisfy hunger or take the place of food. The grain thus destroyed would feed hundreds of thousands; yes, millions of hungry mouths. The Congress of the United States can put a stop to this waste if it will. The question is, are the members of Congress patriotic enough to do it? Christian friend, how about your congressmen?

NARROW-MINDED people often seem to think that a preacher ought not have or receive more money than just enough to provide a bare living for himself and his family, and if they have to pinch to make both ends meet that does not matter. It is very customary to criticize a minister who leaves one church to accept a call to another, if he thereby secures a larger salary. Probably the most general criticism of Billy Sunday is that he gets too much money. We wonder if a lawyer would undertake a great case on the same terms on which he goes to conduct his meetings. He agrees to pay one-third of the salaries of his helpers, and there are generally about twenty of them, and agrees to accept whatever the people give voluntarily on one day at the close of the meeting. Is he to blame because they give liberally? No one has ever accused him of using his money wrongly, and it is said by those who ought to know that he has put away very little. A statement made in Leslie's Weekly shows that he is not preaching for money. The statement is that he has been offered \$1,000,000 to pose for the "movies," and has declined the offer. Evidently he has no idea of commercializing his high calling.

HOME MISSION work by our Church is occupying more and more the attention of the people. They are beginning to awake to its importance and its needs. With the prospects of war before us, we may expect the needs to increase and the opportunities to multiply. More of the weaker churches will probably need help. Then there will be many calls for work in camps and hospitals and in the field among the soldiers. Shall the committee be equipped for doing this work or shall it have to leave it undone or to be done by others? The gifts of God's people will answer the question.

REV. H. F. WILLIAMS, of our Foreign Mission executive force has recently returned from a trip to Brazil, on which he visited all of our mission fields in that great southern republic. Since his return he has published a most interesting little booklet called "In Brazil." It contains only 48 pages. Its readers will regret very much that it is not a larger book. Mr. Williams in a very succinct way tells the reader about the geography and history of the country from its first discovery by the white man. He then treats of its religious history. The special purpose of the book is to tell of the mission work of our Church. In doing this he takes the reader to every station and introduces him to the workers and the people. One cannot read this book without being impressed with need for Christian work and the great results that are being accomplished. The book is prepared for study by mission classes, as it has a good set of questions which may be used very effectively. The cost of the booklet is only 5 cents, and it can be secured from the Presbyterian Committee of Publication at Richmond or Texarkana.

IMMORAL conditions in cities of this country are attracting more and more attention, and the better element of the people are awaking to the importance and the possibility of improvement. Legalized vice has been the disgrace of many of these cities. The officials have many times failed entirely to carry out the law. The people are rising in their might, and in righteous wrath are demanding that the laws be enforced. The most recent movement of this kind has been in San Francisco. This was said to be one of the most openly wicked cities in this country. The officials ignored the law entirely. The people have taken the matter in hand and are compelling the officers of the law to do their duty in a way which had been unknown to them in the past. We believe that any such movement as this should be twofold. The enforcement of law is right. But let the churches at the same time start and maintain the most vigorous evangelistic campaign the city has known, and the results we are sure will be more permanent and far-reaching than they would be otherwise.